UNITARIAN WORD & WORK

MARCH
1917

The Monthly Bulletin of the American Unitarian Association, The Alliance of Unitarian Women, Young People's Religious Union, and The Unitarian Temperance Society

Publication Department

AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

25 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts

50 CENTS PER YEAR 7 CENTS PER COPY

THE UNITARIAN NATIONAL SOCIETIES

REPRESENTED IN THIS ISSUE OF WORD AND WORK

ALL OF THESE SOCIETIES have their headquarters in the building of the American Unitarian Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. The names of the principal officers of each society will be found on the first pages of the sections devoted to their respective organizations. The work and purpose of these societies may be stated in brief as follows:

THE AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

THE ASSOCIATION was founded in 1825, its object being "to diffuse the knowledge and promote the interests of pure Christianity." In furtherance of this purpose the Association publishes books, reports, and tracts; supports missionaries; establishes and maintains churches, and aids in supporting ministers; assists students in preparing for the ministry; and helps fellow-citizens of foreign birth and speech in entering upon their American life. It administers endowments for the benefit of schools and churches of the Unitarian order; for the relief of poor and worthy ministers and the widows of ministers; for providing public lectures in centers of population; for the benefit of schools for colored people in the South; and for many other beneficent purposes.

THE ALLIANCE OF UNITARIAN WOMEN

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE was organized in 1890, and has for its aims primarily to quicken the religious life of the Unitarian churches, and to bring the women of the denomination into closer acquaintance, co-operation and fellowship; to promote local organizations of women for missionary and denominational work; to bring them into helpful association; to collect and disseminate information regarding all matters of interest to the denomination, such as needs of local societies, facilities for meeting these needs, work to be done, the collection and distribution of money, and in general to devise ways and means for the most efficient usefulness of the women of the Unitarian fellowship.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S RELIGIOUS UNION

THE UNION was organized in 1896, and its purposes are to foster the religious life; to bring the young people of the Unitarian churches into closer relations with one another; and to spread rational views of religion and to put into practice such principles of life and duty as tend to uplift mankind. The cardinal principles of the Union are truth, worship and service. It maintains a field secretary to promote the organization of the young people and to extend the fellowship of the Union.

THE UNITARIAN TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY is practically the working committee of the Unitarian churches to promote the cause of temperance in every way possible. It publishes and freely distributes addresses, pamphlets, leaflets and tracts, and furnishes temperance news and facts to the public press. It arranges for conferences on the subject of temperance and sends speakers to general meetings where this subject may properly have a share in the interest and attention.

UNITARIAN WORD AND WORK is regularly issued by the Publication Department of the American Unitarian Association on the first day of each month from October to June inclusive. Subscriptions can begin with any issue. Single copies, 7 cents; Subscription prices: individual subscriptions, 50 cents; in groups of 25 or more from one church, 40 cents each; 50 or more, 35 cents. Address the Publication Department, American Unitarian Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Entered at the Boston Post Office as second class matter

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Vol. 20 MARCH, 1917 No. 6

EDITORIAL

"The Old Order Changeth."

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new
And God fulfils himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

THERE were people living in Europe during the Lutheran Reformation who did not know that anything unusual was taking place. There were Jews in Palestine at the beginning of the Christian Era, and for two hundred years after, who were not aware that the world was being turned upside down. So little was apprehended of the approach of a new order of things when Christianity was entering the Roman Empire that, outside the Gospels, not more than two writers seem to have ever heard of Jesus of Nazareth. Only the historian who can view great events at long range has, in the past, seemed to be able to realize their significance.

To-day, however, it is not necessary to be a historian to appreciate the fact that the civilized world is being transformed on a larger scale and with a greater reference to all the details of associated life than ever was experienced in the past. Modern methods of communication and travel have put into the hands of every person who can read, the record of events as they occur from hour to hour. During the last three years history has poured like an avalanche through the channels of publicity. In Europe the pent-up forces of centuries have broken through all barriers and are sweeping away all social and political landmarks, undermining the international and diplomatic conventions of immemorial usage and threaten to overwhelm the ordinary safeguards of industrial and domestic life. Whether, as a result, the people of Europe will secure larger individual freedom and enjoy a wider field of democracy, or emerge from the present chaos shackled and pinioned by a more relentless display of despotic tyranny than was ever known before, no political prophet can foretell.

AMERICA, too, must reckon with the stupendous issues of the hour. If militarism wins in Europe, the United States will become a Military Power. If the spirit of democracy prevails and "the holy melodies of love arise," a no less arduous responsibility will rest upon this country in the way of self-control and the expression of beneficent co-operation. In either case vast transformations in all the avenues of human interest are bound to occur, and not the least among them will be the searching and far-reaching revolutions in religion. Already, the "old order changeth," and in no direction so clearly as in that of the liberal faith is it "yielding place to new."

It is said on good authority that seventy percent of the people of this country are not identified with any church. It is, of course, possible to be upright, humane and even saintly without being associated with organized

religion. It is not possible, however, for religion itself to be by human beings ignored and neglected for a great length of time without contracting the dry rot of materialism and the degeneracy of boundless selfishness. One, and possibly two, generations can follow the highway of righteousness on the strength of inherited religious impulse, but it is a well established principle that, without an honest devotion to the sources of spiritual life, no people can preserve moral or social integrity.

Our Unitarian faith places us at the pivotal point of opportunity and influence in this crisis of the world's history. It is for us to arrest the mad plunge towards atheism on the one hand, and the servile and hypocritical acquiesence in professional ecclesiasticism on the other. If democracy in government becomes ascendent there must be a rational and modern democracy in religion to accompany it. The two are inseparable. A democratic state demands a democratic church. If there is no democratic church at hand to justify democracy in the eternal order of things, a wild and brutal atheism becomes rampant and all ethical safeguards are overthrown.

UNITARIANISM in this country had a glorious beginning. Within its fold the great majority of our leaders in letters, philosophy, statesmanship and reform were included. No religious movement could have been authorized by a more illustrous *personnel.* As an organized force in the life of the American people we have had an influence all out of proportion to our numerical strength; but never have its executives been satisfied with its achievements in the field of missionary enterprise. It would seem, comparatively speaking, to have marked time for considerable periods, as if waiting for ome great opening to give it expression. That opening appears to-day. It is visible through the smoke and tumult of this modern revolution. Old theories of life, even where they seem to gain public applause, are ridiculed and scouted by the very people who support them in the presence of the multitude. The old authorities in religion are like the old despotisms in government. They are making frantic efforts to hold their places in the world. But if they are not utterly doomed to extinction, then are the masses of the people doomed to religious and political servitude.

As never before the serious, thoughtful, sincere multitudes are praying for a faith that is authorized by conscientious thinking, by the agreement of profession and practice and by the personal experience of God speaking to the individual mind and heart.

Of all Christian fellowships, it is our privilege and our solemn duty to proclaim the gospel placed in our keeping. But to do it adequately today we must be willing to adopt a new idea concerning methods and responsibilities. The day of little things is passed. The hour has struck for the enlargement of our borders and a new scale of activities. No longer should we think of ourselves as a complacent little family of New England Unitarians. Out of our Nazareth the all-important tidings have gone forth to the ends of the earth. There let us send our solicitude, our message upon the lips of our strong preachers and our personal interest through our increased contributions of money. To do less, is to close our ears to a hundred Macedonias. "The old order changeth," and it is for us to make way for the new.

THE AQUEDUCT AND THE STREAM

To ask much and to ask nothing seems like a contradiction. The American Unitarian Association is asking churches and individuals to put into its treasury $120,000, before May 1st, 1917; yet the Association is asking nothing for itself. People in our churches desire to fulfill their missionary obligations. They have a sincere wish to spread their vital faith far and wide over this Republic. The Association places its organization at the service of the churches for this work.

If water is to be conveyed from a spring to a distant point, where it will serve human needs, the first necessity is an aqueduct. Then the aqueduct is to have the water poured into it. Between the fountains of missionary impulses in our churches, and the thirsty fields, the aqueduct is already constructed. Our churches are not being asked to construct or even to repair the aqueduct; but they are asked to provide a fuller stream to flow into it.

In some missionary organizations it is necessary to subtract a fraction from every contribution for administrative expenses, and every dollar given for work in a distant field is diminished in being transmitted. In the missionary work of our Unitarian churches in America that is not the case. Administrative expenses are paid from the income of invested funds. Every contribution from the churches goes into missionary work undiminished; for every dollar thus received, one hundred cents are spent on the intended objects.

The Association carefully studies new fields and it now sets new opportunities before the churches. The $120,000 asked for, for the treasury of the Association, is all for missionary work. Of this sum $45,000 is to meet urgent new needs. There are American communities where our messengers have done valuable and fruitful work, and where success or failure turns on the continued support of the work. The Association needs increased contributions to meet these growing opportunities.

Unitarians should establish a higher standard of missionary giving. They should send a fuller stream to flow through the aqueduct. Thus will distant fields be watered and greater harvests ripen. With the growth of this Republic, the principles of our liberal faith have greater work to do. This work can be done more fully as Unitarians provide more adequately the money with which to do it. Larger contributions will bring proportionate results in larger work accomplished.

American Unitarian Association

Headquarters: 25 Beacon Street, Boston

Rev. Samuel A. Eliot, D. D., *President* — Henry M. Williams, *Treasurer*
Rev. Louis C. Cornish, *Secretary* — W. Forbes Robertson, *Assistant Secretary*

Ministerial Personals

Rev. W. T. Hutchins, minister of the church at Francestown, N. H., died at New Haven, Conn., on February 1.

Rev. C. A. Wing has resigned at Concord, N. H., to accept a call to the church in Baltimore, Md.

Rev. Leonard Cushman has accepted a call to Medfield, Mass.

Rev. J. A. Fairley was installed at Jamaica Plain on Sunday evening, February 18, and Rev. A. J. Wilson at Brighton on the same evening.

Rev. W. D. Parry, who has recently entered our fellowship from the Methodists, has accepted a call to the Girard Avenue Church in Philadelphia, Pa.

Rev. W. M. Backus has been obliged by ill health to withdraw from the charge of the Church in Erie.

Mr. Fox

Mr. George William Fox, Assistant Secretary Emeritus of the Association died at his home in Dorchester on February 12. On the next day the Directors of the Association adopted the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Directors put on record the sorrow in the death of Mr. George William Fox and their deep appreciation of the indebtedness of this Association to him for over sixty-one years of absolutely faithful and disinterested service.

Under date of September 17, 1855, the records of the Board show this entry:

"It was voted that the Secretary be authorized to engage the services of George W. Fox as clerk and salesman in the Book Room at a salary of $400 per annum."

From that date until his death on February 12, 1917, Mr. Fox gave himself fully to the work of the Association. As book clerk and salesman, as Assistant Secretary, as Acting Secretary during the troubled days of the Civil War, and again as Assistant Secretary from the close of the War until he was made Assistant Secretary Emeritus in 1910, and then, with somewhat lessened duties until the present time, Mr. Fox served the Association with a devotion, exactitude and fidelity that have seldom been equalled and which could not be excelled. Twelve stout bound volumes record the monthly meetings of the Board held through these long years. The pages in his even handwriting are as clear as steel plate engraving. They show the painstaking care which he lavished upon every detail of the Association's work. These volumes stand as his memorial. It would be hard to exaggerate the excellency of the standard which he set and maintained in the conduct of the business affairs of the Association. He believed in the manifest destiny of our churches to an ever-increasing influence, and he believed that no least detail of service was too small to merit his entire devotion, because all details were linked with the progress of the cause which he faithfully served. Fortunate indeed will the Association be if through the next sixty-one years and the years that will follow this high standard of faithfulness shall be steadily maintained. The Directors place on record their affectionate remembrance of Mr. Fox, which goes back to the beginning of all the present Directors' personal relationships with the Association, and their gratitude and respect for the labors which Mr. Fox performed.

At the meeting of the Board the Record Book of 1855 was displayed, carrying the vote quoted above together with the Records of 1861 containing the beginning of Mr. Fox's work and the Records of 1910 containing his last entry. It was recalled that through all the years of his active service Mr. Fox had missed only one meeting of the Board and that

was on the day of his mother's funeral. By vote of the Board the Unitarian Building was closed during the hour of Mr. Fox's funeral on February 14, and the flag set at half mast.

Journeys

Rev. Samuel M. Crothers is just returning from his journey in the middle West, where he has met many important speaking engagements. Rev. Samuel R. Maxwell is to give the month of March to missionary service. His four Sundays are to be given to Nashville, Tenn.; New Orleans, La.; Memphis, Tenn; and Bloomington, Ill., and he has other speaking appointments along the route indicated by these engagements. In April, Rev. Sydney B. Snow will follow a somewhat similar route, with Sundays at Nashville, Tenn., Shreveport, La., and Oklahoma City, Okla.

Field Secretary Brown left Boston for the Northwest in the middle of February, with appointments in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Montana, Utah and Colorado.

The Secretary of the Association will preach in Philadelphia on March 4 and then go to Norfolk, Va., for the ordination of the minister there.

The Secretary of the Department of Religious Education, Mr. Lawrance, will go early in March to Youngstown, Canton and Columbus, O., Erie, Pa., and Buffalo, N. Y.

The President of the Association is now in Texas, with appointments at Houston, Austin, and San Antonio. He will then attend a California Conference meeting at Redlands and return by the way of Colorado, where he will meet Field Secretary Brown.

Prof. Francis G. Peabody will spend the month of March in the South, with Sunday appointments at Richmond, Charleston, Atlanta, and Washington, and with visits at the Universities of North Carolina and Virginia.

Luther Celebration

In accordance with the vote of the Board of Directors at the January meeting, the President has appointed a Commission on the Celebration of the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The President will serve as chairman and Mr. Forbes as secretary, and the following gentlemen compose the Commission: Francis A. Christie, Hugo S. Eisenlohr, Ephraim Emerton, George R. Gebauer, Harold E. B. Speight, Charles W. Wendte and Horatio S. White.

The Commission will recommend that in the Celebration of this Anniversary the special emphasis should be on the spirit rather than on the letter of the Reformation. It will urge the application of the animating spirit of the Reformation to our present day needs and problems. It will suggest that controversy should, as far as possible, be avoided and point out that even disagreeable historical facts can be stated without animosity.

Again the attention of the churches is called to the new by-law passed at the Annual Meeting of the Association in 1915, which makes it necessary that the delegates of churches be chosen at a regular meeting of each delegate church. The credentials of delegates must be properly signed by the parish clerk. This provision was not made by the executive officers of the American Unitarian Association, but was the result of thorough discussion and the unanimous vote of delegates and life members. The purpose is to avoid the rather loose and incompetent methods of former years, when delegates were often chosen by individuals, and were not infrequently persons not especially interested in Unitarian work, but were appointed merely because they were to be in Boston at the time of the Annual Meeting. To avoid any possible disappointment or misunderstanding the present method has been amply explained in all the principal Unitarian publications.

Department of Social and Public Service

The Third Conference of Social Service Committees was held on January 17, at Bulfinch Place Chapel. Like the two preceding meetings this was an entire success.

Delegates were present from Winchester, East Boston, Dorchester, Newton, Newton Center, the First Church, Arlington Street Church, the Parker Memorial, the Church of the Disciples, King's Chapel and Bulfinch Place Chapel, Boston, the First Church and the Harvard Street Church, Cambridge, Brighton and Wollaston, and from the Council of Friendly Service.

The Conference was called to order by the Chairman, Rev. Christopher R. Eliot. The first hour was devoted to reports of the work which the respective committees are carrying on this winter. Winchester, King's Chapel, Bulfinch Place Chapel, and East Boston are all giving special attention to Italians. Winchester has an afternoon lecture course, and a course on Housing. East Boston reported that the church was soon to open a Neighborhood House for social service work. The First Church, Dorchester, reported that a large number of their people were rendering volunteer service in different charities and philanthropic societies. Channing Church, Newton, reported that they had been interested in a Union Forum, and were about to organize a Welfare Conference. Newton Center is having speakers representing different organizations addressing the church, and is looking for a closer co-operation with local societies. The First Parish in Cambridge has organized a committee this winter to visit the Cambridge City Home. The Harvard Street Church has received a small endowment for charitable purposes, which is to be administered by the Standing Committee. King's Chapel in addition to its Italian work, has an employment bureau, and a bureau for the handicapped, in connection with which they have a paid worker. The Superintendent of the Parker Memorial reported an attendance of 13,000, and told of the various ways in which the Memorial is helping boys to find a clear track to manhood.

After the reports, some sixty-five persons sat down to a bountiful supper prepared by the ladies of the church. Following supper came addresses by Dr. Samuel M. Crothers, and Dr. Walter B. Cannon of the Harvard Medical School, on the "Mission of the church in moulding public opinion." Seventy-five persons or more attended the Conference, and it may be considered now a definite feature of mid-winter activities.

The last Social Service Bulletin on "A Comprehensive Immigration Policy" has received much attention. It is really a discussion of the American-Asiatic problem. In these days when persistent effort seems to be made in certain quarters to provoke misunderstanding and even hostility between the United States and Japan, this Bulletin is especially timely. If our own country will act wisely and justly there need be no fear of trouble between ourselves and any oriental government. In the Appendix is a short course on the outlines of world constructive statesmanship which may be profitably followed by any Bible class, or citizenship class, or any similar church organization. The Church of the Disciples, Boston, is following this course through the month of March. Other churches have it in mind. If it is desired, Mr. Forbes will be glad to speak on the subject before any church or group of people interested. He has several charts which aim to make the subject perfectly clear. He has made a number of engagements but still has room for more.

Parish Conferences

Mr. Nobbs, Field Secretary for New England, and Mr. Forbes, Secretary of the Department of Public and Social Service, are together offering to hold several parish conferences this Spring, preferably in April and the first part of May. At these meetings it is proposed to discuss topics of particular interest to the local congregation as well as its relation to the larger life of the denomination. Such questions as missionary responsibility, religion for America, service as the test of vital religion, church finances, the preparation of a church budget, how to make both ends meet, confirmation admission to the church, organization of the parish, the church and recreation,

etc., will be considered, as well as other topics suggested by local conditions. The conferences will usually continue two days, one of them being a Sunday. Some of the sessions will be entirely informal, round table discussions, where there will be fullest opportunity for questions and answers. In this way it is hoped that many useful suggestions can be made and that methods of parish administration which have stood the test of experience may be given wider publicity.

Any churches interested in the holding of such a conference are invited to communicate with Mr. Elmer S. Forbes, 25 Beacon Street, Boston.

National Federation

The National Federation of Religious Liberals will hold its Seventh Congress in Pittsburgh, March 6, 7, and 8, by invitation of a local committee of broad-minded clergymen representing some fifteen different denominations, Rev. Carl A. Voss of the German Protestant Church is Chairman, and Rev. Charles E. Snyder, of the North Side Unitarian Church, Secretary of the local committee.

The opening session on the evening of March 6 will be held in the Hebrew Temple. The general topic will be "The Fellowship of the Spirit", and Prof. Jesse H. Holmes, Ph.D. and Rev. Charles W. Wendte, D.D., respectively President and Secretary of the Federation, Rabbi William Rosenau, D.D., of Baltimore, and Rev. Frederick Tower Galpin, D.D., pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, will make addresses.

At the North Side Unitarian Church, on the morning of March 7, a presentation of the aims and work of the National Federation will be given with addresses by J. Barnard Walton, the successor of Henry Wilbur as Secretary of the missionary work of the liberal Friends, Rev. Minot Simons of Cleveland, Rev. Dr. Lee S. McCollester, President of the Universalist General Convention, Rev. Dr. C. A. Voss, President of the German Evangelical Protestant Church of North America and Dr. William Rosenau, President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Dr. Wendte will read his annual address as Secretary.

A luncheon is tendered the delegates at the William Penn Hotel by the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce with an address by Oswald Garrison Villard of New York, after which a "Seeing Pittsburgh" excursion is arranged for the afternoon.

In the evening the session will be held in the Emery Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Luther Freeman, pastor. The topic will be "Looking Towards Peace", and Prof. Anna Garlin Spencer, of Meadville, Rev. Frederick Lynch, Secretary of the Church Peace Union of America, and Oswald Garrison Villard, of the *New York Evening Post* will make addresses.

On Thursday morning, March 8, at the Smithfield German Evangelical Church, the subject of Religious Reconstruction will be discussed, with the following addresses: "A Revival of Religious Experience" by Rev. William L. Sullivan of New York; "Our Need of a New Vision of God" by Rev. Richard W. Boynton of Buffalo; "The Religion of Jesus and the Modern World" by Dr. Lee S. McCollester; and "The Rebirth of the Immortal Hope", by Alfred W. Martin, Assistant Leader of the Ethical Culture Society of New York.

In the afternoon, a session to consider the Social questions of the day will be held at the Parish House of Trinity Episcopal Church, Rev. Edward S. Travers, rector, with addresses by Rev. L. O. Williams, pastor of the Universalist Church in Buffalo, and others.

The closing session will take place in the First Unitarian Church, Rev. L. Walter Mason, D.D., pastor. The Topic of "Nationalism and World-Brotherhood" will be treated by L. K. Ratcliffe, Esq., of the *Manchester* (England) *Guardian*, and Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, of Chicago.

All who are interested are cordially invited to attend the sessions.

Meeting in Symphony Hall, Boston

The February number of "WORD AND WORK" gave an outline of the plan of a meeting to be held in Symphony Hall, Boston, on the evening of the first Sunday in February. The announcements of the plan attracted immediate attention and aroused enthusiasm among the Unitarians in and about Boston. The demand for tickets showed very quickly that there would be a very large audience and plans were made for the holding of overflow meetings. When the doors were opened at 6.30 three thousand people quickly filled every seat in the hall and a crowd conservatively estimated at five thousand was outside eager for admittance; a thousand people were admitted and filled every bit of standing room, and these people stood for two hours.

Across the street Horticultural Hall was immediately filled and people then went down to the South Congregational Church (Dr. Hale's church) in such numbers that that was crowded to the doors and many hundreds of people could not get into any of the meetings.

At Symphony Hall Dr. Charles W. Eliot presided and spoke briefly; and addresses were made by Rev. William Sullivan of New York and Hon. Robert Luce. At Horticultural Hall Rev. Sidney B. Snow of King's Chapel, presided; and the speakers were Rev. Maxwell Savage of Lynn and Rev. Roger Forbes of Dorchester. At the South Congregational Church Rev. Edward Cummings, minister, presided; and addresses were made by Rev. A. L. Hudson of Quincy, and Rev. Frank A. Powell of Braintree.

The February number of WORD AND WORK stated that 4,000 copies of a special hymn pamphlet were printed for use at the Symphony Hall meeting. It was necessary a few days before the meeting to order 3,000 more copies, making 7,000 in all. The hymns were printed from plates selected from the "New Hymn and Tune Book". It contained about twenty hymns of Unitarian authorship. On the four cover pages were printed statements of our faith and our principles, and on the front cover in large type people were invited to carry away these pamphlets. It is significant, that, after the Symphony Hall meeting when the pamphlets were gathered up from the seats, it was found that over 3,500 copies had been carried away by the audience. These pamphlets will do excellent missionary service.

In arranging the meeting the committee called for volunteers for the choir to lead the singing of hymns; a sufficient number responded and attended the rehearsals to provide a choir of 250 voices for the Symphony Hall meeting and large choirs also for the overflow meetings.

The enthusiasm of the audience was splendid, the hymn singing inspiring, and the addresses of the speakers affirmative, constructive and spiritual. A profound impression has been made by this notable undertaking so successfully carried through.

Liberal Evangelism and Publicity

The Symphony Hall meeting came on the tenth Sunday of the notable campaign of liberal evangelism in New England. On that same day there were special sermons in many Unitarian churches, the ministers preaching simultaneous sermons on "Salvation by Character." For ten weeks these ministers had been following a definite line of subjects in order to make to their congregations a lucid and affirmative declaration of Unitarian principles. Reports that have come in show that the special plan followed for ten weeks worked out very successfully. In many New England communities there has been a widespread interest not only in the churches but among an increasing number of persons outside of our churches in this proclamation of religion.

The continued success of the methods of newspaper publicity has also attracted the attention of a great many people. Through the publicity activities of the Association material from these sermons was furnished to the Boston daily papers on Saturdays; the sermons were

preached on Sundays; and on Monday mornings we always had extensive reports printed in the Boston dailies. Thus, by the wide circulation of these papers all over New England, the written word was carried even where the spoken work was not heard. The success of this publicity work has been very gratifying. Besides being reported in the daily papers, it is hoped that the Symphony Hall addresses will appear also in pamphlet form so that they can be sent over the whole country.

Reports from the work of our messengers in cities outside of New England show that our gospel is receiving a wider hearing in many American communities. The development of the movement at Nashville, Tenn. is of peculiar interest. It will be recalled that last winter a week of meetings of liberal evangelism was held there by Rev. Ralph Conner, Rev. Maxwell Savage, and Rev. Thomas P. Byrnes. A similar week of services was held last autumn by Rev. Channing Brown; and Rev. William Taylor has continued in charge of the work. The Post Office mission of the three Unitarian Alliance branches in the churches of Worcester, Mass. has formed the plan to give special attention to the Nashville movement. This will be a mutually helpful arrangement for it will give this Post Office Mission a definite object to work for and will give the young church in Nashville the sense of having direct personal supervision and encouragement.

Rev. Samuel M. Crothers, D.D. gave great encouragement to the movement by his visit the past month; he addressed large audiences at the hall where the Unitarian services are held and was also the guest of honor at large gatherings at the two universities in the city. His addresses were extensively reported in the Nashville papers and attracted a great deal of attention to the new Unitarian movement.

New England Field Secretary

Since the date of the last report, Mr. Nobbs has preached at Concord, N. H., Clinton, Mass., and Dover, N. H. This is the joyous season of the Parish Supper, when the visiting speaker has the pleasure of addressing a hall full of well-filled people. He usually feels at such times that the cause must be thriving, and in spite of experience, pictures the attendance on Sunday mornings as being as large and enthusiastic as that at the suppers. This nourishes hope. Three such seasons of refreshing have been enjoyed lately, at West Roxbury, Middleboro and Hyde Park.

A few experiences this winter point to the need of more warmth in our church life; not warmth of the spirit only; but actual physical warmth generated by a good coal fire.

The preacher could almost keep warm by the exercise of preaching, but the audiences sat numb and perishing. Really a good and well handled heating plant is an aid to devotion. Below 50° Fahrenheit the average citizen of today is not in the right frame for the reception of religious teaching. If any one can tell the perfect temperature to elicit the best response, a large opportunity is before him to aid this generation of now-and-then church-goers.

Department of Religious Education

The fourteenth annual convention of the Religious Education Association will be in session in Boston when this issue of WORD AND WORK reaches subscribers in the city and surrounding towns. It may still be possible for those who live near to attend the session on Church schools (Sunday schools) to be held in Wesleyan Hall on Thursday afternoon, March 1, and the general session that evening in Symphony Hall. At the afternoon session, which will have as its general subject "The Church School Facing the Coming Social Order," Prof. Frank G. Ward, Ph. D., of Chicago Theological Seminary, will speak on "Adjustments to the Spirit of the New Democracy." A "Critical Review of Current Lesson Material" will be made by A. J. W. Meyers, Ph. D., of Toronto. "New Types of Class Teaching," by Miss Lavinia Tallman, M. A., of Columbia University, and "New Types of Co-operative Teaching," by F. E. Johnson,

president of New York School of Christian Work, will be of interest and benefit to all Sunday-school teachers. At the evening session in Symphony Hall, Prof. H. Augustine Smith of Chicago University will demonstrate the mastery of thoroughly good music by children with a choir of a thousand voices. The addresses at this session will be given by Rev. John Howard Melish, Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Brooklyn, Hon. Samuel W. McCall, Governor of Massachusetts, and Rev. John Haynes Holmes.

It is a pleasure to report that Dr. Dodson's book on "The Sympathy of Religions" is in press. As soon as the press work and binding can be done, the book will be ready for our schools and for the general public.

The program on Religious Education to be presented during Anniversary Week will be given on Thursday of that week and for the first time will offer an evening program. The morning session will occur in King's Chapel, as usual, with business, the President's address and one speaker on some aspect of the work in our schools. In the afternoon there will be addresses on Pageantry as a method of teaching Unitarian History, with several pageant scenes, given probably in Ford Hall. For the evening meeting the speakers are already engaged. They are Dr. George R. Dodson, of St. Louis and Dr. Henry F. Cope, Secretary of the Religious Education Association.

Those who are making early plans for the summer may be glad to know now the dates of the Sunday School Institutes held by this Department. They are: at Andover, N. H., June 24-July 1; Meadville, Pa., July 5-25; Isles of Shoals, July 26-August 1.

The Bi-Pocket Envelope System

There are but two more months in which to take advantage of the free offer extended by the Association to the Unitarian churches. This offer is in regard to the Bi-Pocket Weekly Envelope System, successfully installed by thousands of churches of other denominations, and last year adopted by the American Unitarian Association as the best system available. Up to April 30, 1917, complete sets of envelopes especially printed in the quantity desired are supplied without expense, together with a Treasurer's record book, full instructions for working the system, and other necessary material to all churches which will install the system under the conditions prescribed in the agreement.

Since last fall thirty-two Unitarian churches have adopted the Bi-Pocket Weekly System, and although the experience with this method of church finance has been limited, yet the reports are favorable and encouraging.

The Assistant Secretary will be glad to hear from any minister or parish committee desiring additional information, circulars, etc.

Publication Department

The Second Parish Church of Worcester, Mass., the First Parish Church of Brighton, Mass., and the First Unitarian Society of Whitman, Mass. have installed the *New Hymn and Tune Book* during the month of February.

A new A. U. A. tract, No. 284, entitled "Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?" has recently been issued. The author is Clayton R. Bowen, Professor of New Testament Interpretation of the Meadville Theological School.

The Alliance of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women

Headquarters: Room 10, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Miss Anna M. Bancroft, *President*
Hopedale, Mass.

Mrs. Lucia Clapp Noyes, *Treasurer*
11 St. John St., Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Mrs. Caroline S. Atherton, *Rec. Sec.*,
25 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Robert H. Davis, *Cor. Sec.*,
226 Windermere Ave., Wayne, Pa.

We go to press at a time when our relation to Germany in the crisis which confronts us is a matter of grave uncertainty. Under such circumstances the following letter of greeting received recently by our Recording Secretary from Miss Barth, secretary of the Union of Religious Education which is the German organization in the International Union of Liberal Christian Women, becomes to us all a message of keen import:

"In the name of the Union for religious education I should like to thank the Alliance for the greeting, sent also to our branch. You ask what we could do, to conquer hate? I see only one way: to try and keep our own thought free from all bitter feelings, to know that love and confidence are not confined to frontiers and to follow ourselves, and make the young generation follow, the word of our Master to overcome evil with good. I don't think that we could do anything else now. When the war will be over, I hope, that we shall have very soon the opportunity of a General meeting, and then the time will have come for other practical measures too. I am glad for anything I could do for our common aims. Last week I got the 'Manual' with its very interesting reports. With my best thanks and every good wish for your work,

Yours most truly,
Carola Barth."

Miss Barth's letter was forwarded to Mrs. Atherton through Miss Van Eck of Holland of whose postal exchange much has already been written in these columns. Miss Van Eck's letter follows:

"It is a long time since we received your letter. What can we do to drive hatred out of the hearts?

"Fraülein Barth is right, we have to try to keep our own thought free from all bitter feelings. Practically we do the work of the correspondence bureau. You have the report. For us neutrals, it is no difficult task, it is a mere duty. I have a great admiration however for our members in the belligerent countries. It is a high level at present, to hear the Master's voice in our hearts, that we have to love our enemies. So it is the duty of neutrals, to help where it is possible, to stretch out our hands over the frontiers to each side to unite broken or breaking ties of friendship. After the war it would perhaps be of much help to have united in a book of Peace, all the practical help each country has given to what mankind calls enemies. In my idea our enemies are only those persons which are the cause of the war. There is a report of Dr. Ratte's work. I suppose there is also one of the Emergency Committee of the French and other War Relief Committees. Perhaps those deeds could be united in a book or a story for children could be formed. These ideas, half mine, half Fraülein Barth's, are for a later time. Perhaps the Peace Societies will take the same subject. Never mind, the work is being done. I fear it shall last long before a meeting, a real meeting of different nationalities is possible. In every country life is expensive. Is it not possible that our International Union shall form a branch of the Congress of Religious Liberals? An international summer school where we had plenty time to see and hear much of our work. To draw more closely together, and that is our duty for the future, we have to see each other. July 1916 I was so happy to have Fraülein Barth here. She attended our Sunday School meeting and gave an address the evening of the

reception. This is possible because Fraülein Barth could follow our Dutch speakers and we heard her with great interest. I do not deny that some difficulties of language are to be overcome, especially for those which do not possess the modern languages, but in every country there are persons I suppose, which are able to understand each other. I know by experience how much I did profit by my visits in England and America, especially for the postal mission work and my international education. Those visits have not to be in the first place for sight seeing. Excuse me, that this report is rather long. I am thankful for the sending of your manual and of the interesting little book 'Our Daily Bread.' I hope we may see each other in happier times. I am glad you can do so much mission work in these times of war. Please consider this as a familiar letter and excuse my English. You should not like a Dutch letter, would you?

Yours sincerely,
D. van Eck."

With these two letters came the following from Miss Herford:

"Very many thanks for your kind letter. I received the beautiful message of greeting from your Board and it will be presented to the Central League Committee to-morrow. I want to make sure that these enclosures from my two colleagues get away promptly. Miss Van Eck I see gave one or two suggestions in reply to your query.

Just now I find it almost impossible to do anything but live in the present, and it takes every bit of one's mind and heart to do that. The future is somewhere in the clouds for us all here. We can only hope the clouds will break before long and the future shine out upon us. I think we may safely leave it at that, for the harder we work if we only keep to the right line the brighter the future may be and our paths in it the clearer.

I have heard of the arrival of a most munificent gift from the New York League and others and of the handsome fee you have sent to the Union from The Alliance. The Treasurer will convey the thanks of our committee.

Meanwhile personally I am more than grateful to you all.

Believe me, very truly yours,
Helen B. Herford."

It is none too early for Alliance members to begin to plan for the Anniversaries. Again this year the public meeting of The Alliance will be held in Tremont Temple, Boston. This will be Monday, May 21, at 2.30 p. m. An inspiring program is being prepared and a full attendance is anticipated. Members may wish to invite friends to this our "Mass" meeting.

The business session will be held Wednesday morning at 10 a. m. in the First Church, Boston, Berkeley and Marlboro Streets, which seats two or three hundred more people than the South Congregational Church, which has opened its doors to us for many years. Mr. Cummings rejoices in the increased numbers that require a larger auditorium and bids us remember that next year or later the welcome is ready should it seem best to return to his church.

Wednesday afternoon there will be a reception at the Somerset to allow Alliance workers to get together for informal conference.

The usual meetings of Post Office Mission and Cheerful Letter workers will be held on Thursday.

WORD AND WORK henceforward goes to press on the fifteenth of the month. Notices intended for insertion in the April issue should be received by the Editors at 25 Beacon Street, Boston, on or before March fifteenth. This change is being made in order that branches far from the place of publication may receive their magazines on the first of each month. It is perhaps well to again remind the branches that for the past few years no attempt has been made to print reports from each branch. Rather it has been our study to print suggestive items, with the hope that they will prove a stimulus to Alliance workers and leaders. Sometimes a few words are printed from the parts of the country where Unitarianism is still in every sense a missionary endeavor in order that those of us who labor

in easier fields may take heart from the courage of a few consecrated women. If material is sent from the branches for WORD AND WORK, let it be of any unusual work which you have done, of ways in which Alliance spirit has been furthered in your community, of particular difficulties which you have conquered. Be specific. Remember that reports which say that the usual meetings have been held and the usual work has been done show a commendable activity but do not make reading which urges us on enthusiastically to fresh endeavor.

Executive Board

The regular meeting was held February 9, 1917, Miss Bancroft in the chair. Twenty-six were present from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and Pennsylvania.

It was good to learn that the appeals for Ellsworth, Green Harbor, Hanford, and Northumberland have been completed. From the money contributed for War Relief $208.50 has been sent to Mme. Loyson in Paris. From the bequest of Elizabeth P. Channing $6,500.56 has been received in addition to the amount reported last month. Mrs. Wm. De Yough Field and Mrs. E. H. Atherton have become life members.

In memoriam have been placed the names of Miss Abby W. May by Miss Eleanor G. May; Mrs. Sylvia W. Field by the Quincy, Mass. branch; Miss Ellen Elizabeth Farnham and Miss Louise Farnham by Mrs. Wm. De Y. Field; Mrs. John T. Clark by the Jamaica Plain, Mass. branch; Miss Mary E. Morton by Fall River, Mass.

Mrs. Davis reported that the Philadelphia League voted to help Vineland, New Jersey, continue its church services, and that a new start has been made at Girard Avenue, Philadelphia with much enthusiasm. In both cases the devoted efforts of Alliance workers were highly commended.

The President told of a meeting of branch presidents called together by their director, where a most helpful round table conference took place. Branches are asked to establish the dollar membership in place of a local fee for a year or two at least, to give it a trial.

Two new Junior Alliances are reported, East Boston and Fall River, Mass. Several branches have assumed the care of French orphans of the war. The Sunday School in Milton, Mass., has money in hand to help support two French orphans for one year.

It was voted to give the Sunday School committee authority in consultation with the President to prepare and issue a letter to the branches.

The Library Committee reported a meeting with the Library Committee of the American Unitarian Association, when it was agreed that the object of the Lending Library is to supply books of a religious, educational, or philanthropic nature. It was voted at the meeting that all accessions to the Library must be approved by the chairman of the Alliance Committee before being placed on the shelves or catalogued; also that Miss Bancroft and Mrs. Wilks be requested to remove from the shelves and catalogue any volumes that seem to be inappropriate to the purposes of the Library.

The Conference Committee reported a meeting with Dr. Eliot when the issuing of WORD AND WORK a day or two earlier was discussed, in order that more branches may have their copies in time for their meetings. Dr. Eliot said the wishes of The Alliance would be considered. Co-operation was promised in letting The Alliance know in advance of Billings lecturers' trips, that information about the meetings may be sent to Alliance workers and Post Office Mission correspondents.

With the approval of the Appeals Committee an Appeal for $500 for Lawrence, Mass., was endorsed for their new parish hall.

On recommendation of the May meetings committee it was voted to hold the public meeting in Tremont Temple on the afternoon of May 21, 1917.

The Board heard with keen regret of the illness of Miss Pecker which has necessitated her recall from China.

A vote of thanks was extended to the generous friend who has presented Boston headquarters with a new cabinet for the fast accumulating Alliance material.

Miss Fannie A. Howard of Wichita, was elected director for Kansas; Mrs. George W. Holdrege, Omaha, director for Nebraska; and Miss Mary C. Sawyer of Wellesley Hills a director for Massachusetts, which by increased numbers is entitled to an additional director.

Miss Lowell, Mrs. Noyes and Mrs. Atherton were appointed a committee to plan with the local committee for the Alliance meetings to be held in connection with the General Conference in Montreal in September, 1917. On Wednesday, September 26, there will be an Alliance luncheon with speaking.

An enthusiastic letter from Mrs. Bale told of the sale of over 4,000 Christmas cards and the proceeds divided among the branches of Western Canada for war relief.

Cordial greetings were received from Miss Herford of the British League, Miss Van Eck of Holland, and Fraülein Barth of Germany, with expressions of great appreciation of the work The Alliance is doing.

A message of sympathy was voted to a former officer, Mrs. Emil L. Boas of New York, who mourns the death of her only son.

A letter of greeting was voted to Mrs. Noyes, detained at home by illness.

Inspiring reports were received from the Pacific Coast and New England, except Massachusetts. The branch at Presque Isle, Maine, has been reorganized, Mrs. Frank L. White, Secretary.

At the next meeting, March 9, 1917, reports will be due from Massachusetts.

CAROLINE S. ATHERTON,
Recording Secretary.

Junior Fellowship Notes

The Junior Fellowship Committee cordially welcomes two new Juniors, Fall River and East Boston.

Good work for the orphans of the war continues—Last month the Anthony Junior Alliance of Fairhaven forwarded a case to Claire Grac, a little mother in one of the orphanages at Cannes, Fanace. The box contained 10 pounds sugar, 12 large cans evaporated milk, 5 handkerchiefs, 1 pair garters, 2 pairs stockings, 2 night dresses, 2 felt hats, 2 gingham dresses and many articles of clothing slightly worn, 1 sweater, 1 apron, 2 shirts, 2 pairs drawers, 2 night dresses, 2 petticoats, 2 waists.

It is hoped that other Juniors may send boxes as the need is very great.

The Watertown Juniors are preparing an outfit for five year old Gaston Die at Cannes while East Bridgewater Juniors are doing the same for two Belgian sisters who are refugees.

The Junior Fellowshp appeal for the orphans was presented by Miss Taussig to her branches and as a result the Alton, Ill. Alliance branch forwarded $22 with which to buy condensed milk and shoes.

The Sunday School at Milton, Mass. sent $73 to Madame Jules Siegfried at Paris to assist in supporting and giving vocational training to a French orphan for two years.

Juniors not wishing to send articles of food or clothing may help brighten the little Serbian children by sending pictures or cheery postal cards.

Inquiries should be sent to

MRS. WILLIAM L. VOIGT.
222 Riverside Drive,
New York City.

News from the Branches

From the Connecticut director: "We are still pegging away down in Connecticut. Most of our seed falls on unfertile soil, but here and there one takes root. The loyal Derby Alliance meets once a month, even though there is now no church. The members sew for the hospitals and the Red Cross. They are hoping to have a few public meetings in the spring, and have some of our ministers present. This is in line with the week of evening meetings which have recently been held up and down the Connecticut Valley. The Derby branch is sending a delegate this year to each important general meeting and the secretary writes that when she returns from

one of them she feels that she can 'build a whole Unitarian church alone.' Such is the enthusiasm that we isolated liberals bring away when we attend the Conferences and Associate Alliance meetings.

"The busy New London branch is sewing, sewing. The members have made this year one thousand seven hundred and eight articles for the War Relief work. They have had their usual sales, and have again paid two hundred dollars to the church in addition to paying the coal bill. They meet every week to do this large amount of sewing and once a month hold evening meetings, being addressed this winter by members of the faculty of the Connecticut College for Women.

"The Hartford branch is holding its own. The Congregational Churches are filled with women who should belong to it. So long as this is true, there is still a work for us (or Billy Sunday!) to do. We are having a miscellaneous program this season. Many prominent men and women are speaking to us. Mrs. Tilton told us about 'Anti-Alcohol Education and Prohibition' and Mrs. Guild gave us an altogether delightful talk about her work. She made us wish that we had a dozen young women whom we could immediately pack off to the Tuckerman school! We are expecting to respond to several of the appeals this winter, and do more Post Office Mission work than ever before. We consider it very important that we should send a delegate to the general Alliance meetings. The reports brought back keep us interested in the larger work."

The sale of the "Lend a Hand cards" in which many of the branches took such an active part, proved most profitable, $212.50 being the net result, to which was added the cash gifts from Arlington Street church, Boston, $25., Buffalo, N. Y., $3.00, King's Chapel, Boston, $7.00, ($35.00), making a total of $247.50, which has been distributed among the branches of Western Canada, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria, and received by them with deep gratitude and used in War Relief work. Mrs. Bale who published the cards and sold them takes this way of personally thanking every one for her kind response and for the letters of sympathy for the Canadian branches. Extracts from these letters were sent to each branch.

The regular monthly meeting of the Alliance branches in the neighborhood of Boston will be held on March 5, at 10.30 a. m., in Channing Hall, Boston. The subject of the meeting will be War Relief and Mrs. Claude U. Gilson will preside.

The Stockton, Cal., branch sends a cheerful report. From 12 to 18 women are working with a good will, hoping to have a church soon. They have had their *first* Bazaar with enthusiasm and success. The first Thursday after all business is transacted ladies may sew on anything while one member reads or a book is discussed. The Third Thursday *all* must sew for the club or branch or pay ten cents into the treasury.

The branches on the Pacific Coast report an unusual amount of social service work. For example: the church at San Jose contributed $12.00 for the depot matron, contributed to the unemployment lodge, prepared Christmas boxes for 25 shut-ins and is planning still more outside work for next year.

The church at Portland, Oregon, devotes one-half day in each month to sewing and making garments for the city's needy. They report there have not been so many individual appeals for help because of improved employment condition, but they have furnished 30 days' employment for two sewing women who would otherwise have been unemployed. During three days of the Rose Festival the Portland branch kept open house and served special luncheons. In December they held for three days a unique Roman rag fair.

Mrs. Stebbins, California director, writes: "This should be my annual report of the Alliance branches under my direction. Three, Sacramento, Eureka and Woodland have not responded to my call. The Society for Christian Work in San Francisco and the Berkeley branch are both prosperous, doing active, useful

and interesting work, some of the occasions in Berkeley of very great interest, namely the Thirty Years Ago party and The Anniversary dinner. The Society for Christian Work keeps up a high standard all the time and in many directions.

"Alameda reports difficulty in keeping up membership but the faithful have had a busy year. They entertained the Associate Alliance handsomely. I know this for I was there. The Oakland branch is always busy, the Post Office Mission doing good work, box luncheons on the second meeting of each month and book reviews given by the minister, an Easter sale and bazaar, both satisfactory. Occasional home parties both at the church and at private houses have been found very pleasant and 'brotherly feeling promoted.'"

New Appeals

Two new Appeals have been approved by the Committee, endorsed by the Executive Board, and are placed before the branches.

1. The Tuckerman School asks for an annual contribution of $250.00 to be used for the training of Parish Assistants as there is a growing demand for trained workers.

The Tuckerman School prepares young women to render expert service as church workers and Sunday School teachers. Its graduates are doing good work in Boston, Brooklyn, Cleveland, Hingham, Lawrence, Montreal, etc. The Appeal is like the two for the Divinity Schools, since it will be used in helping to train those who are to serve our churches.

2. The Appeal from Lawrence, Mass. is for five hundred dollars to help build their parish hall. The congregation consists mostly of New Americans, some of whom were English Unitarians and who wish a church home of their own faith for themselves and their children. A parish worker, Miss Carter, has built up a flourishing Sunday School and the Rev. William S. Nichols of North Andover preaches every Sunday. There is an Alliance branch of forty members which has kept up its meetings from the time of the Women's Auxiliary Conference. Mr. Nichols considers it a movement of great promise.

EFFIE E. WHITMAN.
Secretary of the Appeals Committee.

Because of ill health due to over study in a trying climate Miss Pecker under medical advice has been compelled to leave China and will probably have reached San Francisco ere this. The director of the Language School writes: "Miss Pecker has made very rapid and satisfactory progress in the language, both in her ability to hear and speak, and in her writing. In addition to doing satisfactory work on the language, she has made an excellent impression on all with whom she has come in contact. She has altogether been a most helpful influence in the school, and through her influence has lightened my work as director not a little. She is well fitted by training and by disposition to do good missionary work, and has won the hearts of all by her spirit of service."

In view of the fact that Miss Pecker's illness was incurred in our service, where a fine beginning had already been made, it is hoped that the branches will continue their subscriptions to help meet the unusual expense of bringing her back to America.

Appeals

Appeals stand as follows:

Meadville students	$30.00
Pacific School students	39.00
Italian Mission	100.00
Seattle, Wash., University Church furnishings	15.00
Tuckerman School	215.00
Lawrence, Mass.	500.00
War Relief	
Needed for Southern Circuit before May 1	250.00

Young People's Religious Union of the Unitarian Church

Headquarters: Room 11, 25 Beacon Street, Boston

Rev. Frederick M. Eliot, *President*

Miss Grace R. Torr, *Secretary* Mr. O. Arthur McMurdie, *Treasurer*

Happiness

We find, to-day, the great cry of life asking us the question, "What is happiness? and where may she be found?" Together we search for the answer.

We go to the palace of the King, and standing before that one who enjoys all the prerogatives of royalty, before whom his subjects bow in awe and whose word means life or death, and to that one clothed in his purple and catered to by every luxury we ask the question: "O, King, tell us what is happiness?" As our question reaches him, he rises, and with drooping head, and haughtiness gone, answers us out of the agony of vanished hopes and empty heart: "Happiness? I don't know. I have led armies in conquest and to victory; I have enslaved the world. I have heaped about myself the wealth of nations, their beauty and culture. I have clothed myself in purple and adorned myself with jewels; but happiness—I know it not. My nights are visioned with dreams of a vast plain in which I stand alone. My days are filled with hopes that I cannot grasp and as they pass by, they heed not my command to wait, but fly before me. Happiness—I do not know what it is."

We turn away and hunt the beggar in his hut. There he is in his rags and dirt. He wants neither, but he has ceased to try for anything better, for as we ask him, he answers, "Happiness! I don't know what it is. Why not ask the King in yonder palace? He has everything that life can give; I have nothing," and he turns away to dream his sordid dream as it springs from his want when compared with the King's much.

Again we turn to go, with our question still unanswered. As we journey, we meet our fellowman, and to him we put the query, "What is happiness?" He answers the same. The poor tell us to ask the rich; the rich say, "Ask the poor." Each points to some one else; and we wonder if we have been in pursuit of a phantom but our heart tells us, no!

At last we find a little child playing in the sand. In comradely spirit we greet him: "Hello! little one;" and in jest, almost, at childhood we say, "Baby, is happiness beyond the sea that comes rolling up to your feet, or can it be found yonder in the sky that is so high, or does it dwell in yonder city where men are working so hard?" The little one only smiles and turns to rebuild the house of sand which the tide has washed away. We venture once more. "But, Baby, are you happy?" The answer comes quickly with laughter and light, "O, yes, I am happy" and in a flash we understand. We have found happiness and seen her dwelling place.

The beggar might have the throne of the King; the King, the nothing of the beggar; the rich, the lot of the poor; the poor, the wealth of the rich, but that would not mean happiness. At the foot of the rainbow is not the place of her abode, but the point from which the rainbow is seen. Conditions are not alone happiness but the heart which gives soul to the conditions. The child upon the sand was not sitting disconsolate because it could not go beyond the sea; it was not stretching its tiny hands up to lay hold of the blue and gold of sky and cloud; no thought of the distant city caused it any anxiety. It played in the sand, contented; and built the sand to the limit of its ability, into the reality of its most beautiful dream.

Happiness is contentment and her abode is in each man's heart. Not a slavish obedience to things as they are,

without a thought of what might lie beyond; but a full appreciation of what we have and a proper use, a full expression of our best within the limits of our ability, a doing splendidly of each trivial duty. This is the contentment that alone opens the way into the richer beyond.

REV. DUDLEY HAYS FERRELL.

The Topic List for March

What is Spiritual Power?

At the meetings this month, the aim should be to give to the word "spiritual" a more definite meaning that it often has. The Church is sometimes spoken of as a "power-house," that is, as an institution that aims to generate power for use in the world. What sort of power can a Church give? This is an important question for the young people to try to answer, if they are to be effective members of the Church.

March 4. *Facing a Mob.* No more pressing need of power can be imagined than that which a man feels when he is face to face with an angry crowd, and power which will enable him to meet such a situation is real power. The passage from Luke shows that Jesus possessed such power. We are not told exactly how he made his way through that angry company of hot-headed Nazarenes, but it must have been by reason of his quiet confidence and his appeal to their best instincts. The same sort of power is seen in a great many other cases—for example the sheriff in a Southern city who recently faced a mob bent on lynching a Negro, and saved the life of his prisoner; or the story of Dorothea Dix and the insane man whom she quieted by her own calm and confident manner. Give other illustrations of the same thing, perhaps reading some story from a book like O. S. Marden's "Rising in the World," chapter 2. Sing Charles Wesley's hymn: "See the Lord, thy keeper stands."

March 11. *Facing Pilate.* The story of Jesus before Pilate, as given in the Gospel of John, is one of the best illustrations of the reality of spiritual power. The contrast between the power of the Roman Governor, backed by all the armed force of the Roman Empire, and the apparent helplessness of the Master, is very striking. Yet who can doubt that the victory lay with the unarmed, quiet, calm Galilean? Even Pilate saw that Jesus had a power that was stronger than all his legions. John Brown is another example, and the leader for the day will be able to think of still others. Read from Tolstoi's "My Religion," part of chapter 4, and sing James Montgomery's hymn: "God is my strong salvation."

March 18. *The Psalmist's Description.* How far is this to be taken literally? Did Jesus take it literally? (Compare the story of the temptation.—)Is sickness, for example, in any degree the result of lack of this spiritual power? Or can the man who is spiritually strong resist the attacks of "pestilence?" This ought to raise a question that will offer good chance for debate. Read from some book of the question of health and sing T. H. Gill's hymn: "Walk with the Lord."

March 25. *The Christian Warrior.* Take the various parts of the armor of the Christian warrior as Paul describes them, and ask what they mean for us. Did the armor protect Paul? Did it enable him to fight the good fight? Were his weapons effective? What weapons are needed for the wars of the social advance? For the war against disease? Against poverty? Against war? Sing William Gaskell's hymn: "Press on! press on! ye sons of light."

Young People's Plan for Meetings at the Shoals

The large numbers of young people who have attended the Shoals Conferences at Star Island for the past twenty years suggested to the Star Island Corporation that many more young people would like to come, if there were a special Young People's Week. A committee of ten young people was consequently formed with Mr. Carl B. Wetherell as chairman to formulate plans for this coming summer.

It has been definitely decided to hold a series of meetings from July 1 to July 4, inclusive, to be known as the *Star Island Conference of Unitarian Young People*. The trip down will be made on Saturday, June 30. The return will be made on Thursday, July 5. For any who cannot stay the whole time, there will be an opportunity to spend either Sunday or the Fourth, at the Shoals, and reach Boston at 9.05 the next morning. The cost for those staying the entire time will not exceed $15. This includes transportation from Boston and return as well as room and board. As with the other meetings at the Shoals during the summer, there will be a membership fee of $1.00 which should be sent to the secretary when applying for a room.

The committee has divided itself up into the following sub-committees: Executive Committee, Mr. Frederick West, Chairman, Miss Minnie Packard and Mr. Alden V. Keene; Committee to arrange for speakers, Rev. Palfrey Perkins, Chairman Rev. Frederick M. Eliot and Rev. H. Houghton Schumacher; Social Committee, Miss Caroline Carter, Chairman, Miss Bessie Warren, Miss Esther Cutter, Miss Rachel Metcalf and Mrs. Mary-Lewis Chenoweth Fletcher. This last committee will have charge of the afternoons and evenings. They promise a program including a moonlight sail.

Among the speakers already provided for is Dr. Samuel McChord Crothers who will be at the Shoals during the entire Conference.

Mrs. Samuel McChord Crothers, Mrs. Frederick M. Eliot, Mrs. Carl B. Wetherell, Mrs. H. Houghton Schumacher and Mrs. Ralph Fletcher will act as Senior hostesses while the members of the committee will act as Junior Hosts and Hostesses.

It is hoped that many will plan their vacations to include these dates and spend them at the Shoals. The Shoals are ten miles out at sea from Portsmouth, N. H., where one gets the benefit of the sea air. There is a stone chapel for devotional services, good bathing, boating and fishing as well as wonderful rocks and scenery unsurpassed. There is a tennis court and a hall for dancing, equipped with a stage where a play could easily be given.

The Secretary will gladly furnish further information. When applying for rooms, please be careful to adhere to the following:

1. Full name and permanent address for each member of your party. (The membership fee is one dollar for each person. Your membership certificate will entitle you to the reduced rates at the hotel and on the railroad.)
2. Whether you wish a double or single room. (Extra charge to anyone occupying a double room alone.)
3. State as exactly as possible time of arrival and intended departure.
4. Suggest any possible names of persons to whom this circular might be sent.

Committee for the Star Island Conference of Unitarian Young People.

ALDEN VINAL KEENE, *Secretary*,
40 Fayette Street,
Watertown, Mass.

An Open Letter

To the Unitarian Churches of America:

Sunday, March 11, 1917, has been set aside as Young People's Day by the Young People's Religious Union.

On that day you are urged to unite with the other churches of the Unitarian faith throughout the country and have a sermon particularly appropriate for young people, whether or not you have a Young People's Religious Union in your church. Your Sunday School is asked to recognize the day and your Young People's Religious Union to conduct a special service, so that even our most remotely located young people may feel that they are a part of a greater whole.

On this second Sunday in March, it is also requested that a special collection be taken to be sent to the Young People's Religious Union headquarters, where it will be used for the sole purpose of furthering the Unitarian cause among the rising generation.

Unitarian Temperance Society

Rev. Edgar S. Wiers, *President*, Montclair, N. J.
Mr. Thomas H. Eliot, *Vice-President*, Lowell, Mass.
Rev. Chester A. Drummond, *Secretary*, Somerville, Mass.
Charles H. Stearns, *Treasurer*, Brookline, Mass.

Mobilizing Unitarians by Means of Post-Cards

About the Post-Card Campaign of the Unitarian Temperance Society we want to say that a group of young men are planning to send the cards through one entire county of Massachusetts, thus keeping the thinking men constantly informed. The Arlington Street Church, Boston, has a committee that will send a card every month to every pew-holder. King's Chapel, Boston, will do the same. We are about to issue a new card to be ready the middle of March—all about "Booze and Baseball." This one will be good both for men and boys.

There are 25 dry States—The States that come hard are the states that are fullest of Unitarians. Should this be?

Should War Come

which Heaven forbid, the saloons of the nation should be closed. Let every Unitarian living in a dry state ask his governor to demand that the boys of his state shall go only into dry states. The governors of the 25 states that have already voted dry could and should demand a dry nation during war time. Anything less is being thoroughly behind the times. Norway has been under partial prohibition since a week before Christmas as a means of reducing the cost of living incident to her loss of over $60,000,000 of ships torpedoed by Germany.

RELIGION *for* TODAY

by

JOHN HAYNES HOLMES

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
* * * * * * * *
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

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